

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (original): A method of steering a distal protection guidewire apparatus through a patient's tortuous vessel comprising:

providing a guidewire apparatus having a hollow shaft, a core wire slidably disposed there through, and a tubular protection element disposed about a distal region of the apparatus;

translating the core wire distally with respect to the hollow shaft to collapse the tubular protection element about the distal region of the apparatus;

introducing the guidewire apparatus into the patient's vessel;

translating the core wire distally with respect to the hollow shaft to deflect the collapsed tubular protection element and the distal region of the apparatus; and

negotiating the guidewire apparatus through the patient's tortuous vessels by rotating and advancing the deflected distal end of the apparatus.

Claim 20 (original): The method of steering a distal protection guidewire apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

translating the core wire proximally with respect to the hollow shaft to straightening the collapsed tubular protection element and the distal region of the apparatus.

Claim 21 (original): The method of steering a distal protection guidewire apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

translating the core wire proximally with respect to the hollow shaft to deploy the tubular protection element into apposition with an interior site of the patient's vessel.

Claim 22 (original): The method of steering a distal protection guidewire apparatus according to claim 19 wherein translating the core wire distally with respect to the hollow shaft comprises:

applying axial tension to the tubular protection element; and
applying axial compression to the core wire.

Claim 23 (original): The method of steering a distal protection guidewire apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the tubular protection element is a filter.

Claim 24 (original): The method of steering a distal protection guidewire apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the tubular protection element is an occluder.